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LB 512, 512A

return from Final Reading, if that's necessary. But certainly I would hope at this point that we bracket the bill. I think at this point at least I would hope that we'd advance LB 512 and LB 512A and reject a bracket motion.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I think that a lot of my comments are going to echo Senator Hillman's comments. I have been supporting LB 512 not only because of the issue about property taxes and funding for Douglas County but more importantly because I...it really concerns me that we have appropriate treatment for these youngsters. And I have talked to some of the people who are involved who truly believe that they are getting better outcomes as a result of the placements that these kids have been going through. That is not to say that I do not have some reservations about what we are doing, and I have talked to Senator Will about those reservations. On Appropriations Committee we have fought for the last few years to incrementally add money to the community-based juvenile services program to add funding so that we have adequate services at Kearney and Geneva. And I guess I would take some issue with Senator Chambers talking about deplorable conditions. Frankly, I have not visited at Kearney and Geneva for a long time so I don't know what the conditions are very recently. But my concern from an Appropriations Committee standpoint is that we just aren't even funding it enough to be able to say that the services that we're providing that we're doing anything that's going to help rehabilitate these young people. When the average length of stay is as short as it is, how can you possibly put together any sort of a treatment program that's going to have any benefit to the kids that are involved? And I strongly support community services. I have grave reservations about the placement of children outside the state for a variety of issues, foster care and mental health placements outside the state and placement outside the state in this instance because you have kids being separated from their families and sometimes that maybe something that is beneficial to their rehabilitation but I don't know that it helps them to integrate back into their community. And so I think that it needs to be more of a family approach and out-of-state placement I don't think furthers that. And so I